

# SDG indicator 5.5.1b on women's representation in local government

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# Introduction

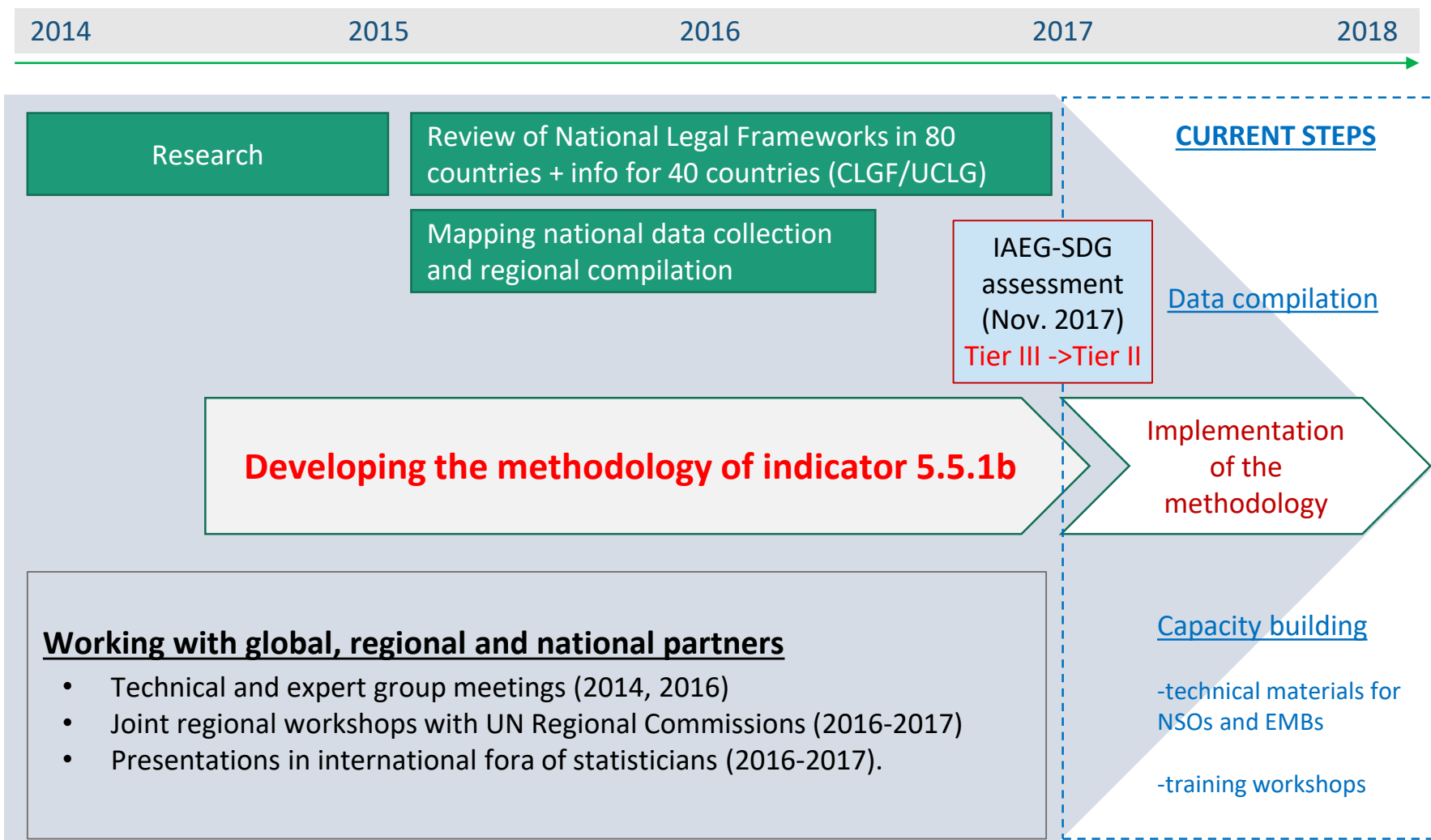
# The SDG indicator 5.5.1b

- Phrased as “Proportion of seats held by women in local governments”
- One of the indicators monitoring **Target 5.5**: “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life”.
- One of the two components of **Indicator 5.5.1** measuring women’s proportional representation in two distinct areas of government: (a) national parliaments and (b) local government.

## Indicator 5.5.1b

- Is under the custody of UN Women;
- New indicator, included in the SDG monitoring framework as Tier III indicator, and reclassified by IAEG-SDG as Tier II in November 2017;
- Complements indicator 5.5.1a on women’s representation in parliament, and enables the first-ever global comparable measurement of women’s political participation at local level;
- Data will be used to set regional and global baselines for women’s representation in local political decision-making positions, assess progress and setbacks over the years and across countries, provide much-needed evidence for policy-making and programming, and inspire additional research.

# Steps undertaken by UN Women to develop the methodology of the indicator



# The methodological progress

## Tier III SDG Indicator 5.5.1b (2015)

No global indicator and data compilation

Regional data compilation, BUT:

- Slight variation in indicators used
- Some not official statistics
- Missing detailed metadata and methodological guidance

Common features across regions:

- Separate indicators for deliberative and executive bodies
- Focus on elected positions

Differences across regions:

- Single or lower tier of local government in LAC and Europe
- All tiers of local government in Asia and the Pacific

Methodological  
development



## Tier II SDG Indicator 5.5.1b (2017)

One common indicator: “proportion of elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government”

Metadata of the indicator +  
Methodological Note, with information on:

- Terms and definitions
- Sources of data
- Mechanism for global reporting

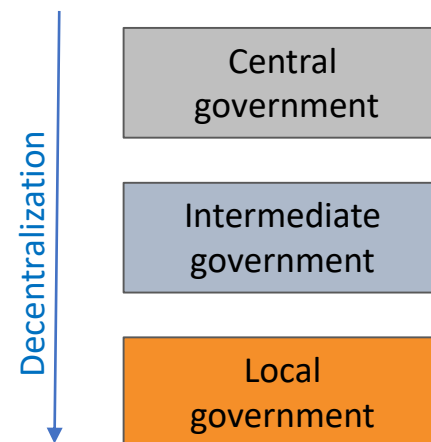
# The methodology of the indicator

## 1. Terms and definitions

# What is local government

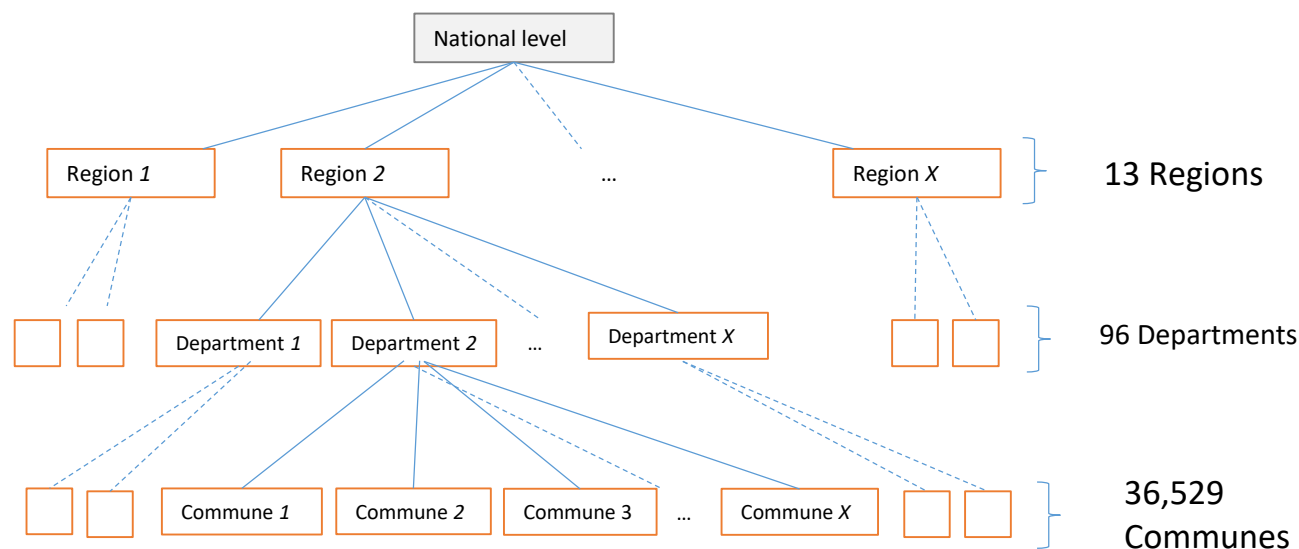
- Sub-national spheres of government are the result of decentralization = the process of transferring some **legislative, executive, financial** and **administrative** powers from the central government to sub-national units of government distributed across the territory of a country.
- **Statistical definition:** 2008 SNA (System of National Accounts) distinction between central, state and local government (para 4.129). Local government consists of local government units, defined by SNA as “institutional units whose fiscal, legislative and executive authority extends over the smallest geographical areas distinguished for administrative and political purposes” (para 4.145).
- **In a given country: identification of local government based on national legal framework**, including national constitutions and local government acts or equivalent legislation.

## Three spheres of government



# Tiers of local government

- Local government may be organized in 1 or more tiers/levels
- For example, local government in France is organized in three tiers



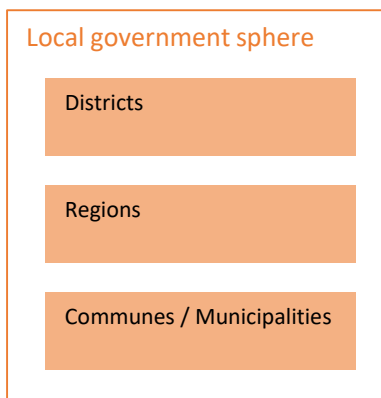
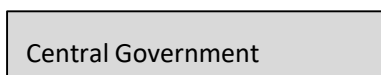
Source: UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.



# Examples of countries with 3, 2, 1 tiers

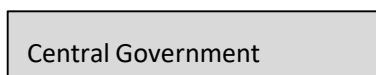
## Tunisia

State structure: *Unitary*



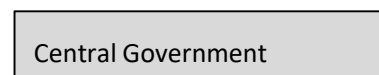
## Algeria

State structure: *Unitary*



## Saudi Arabia

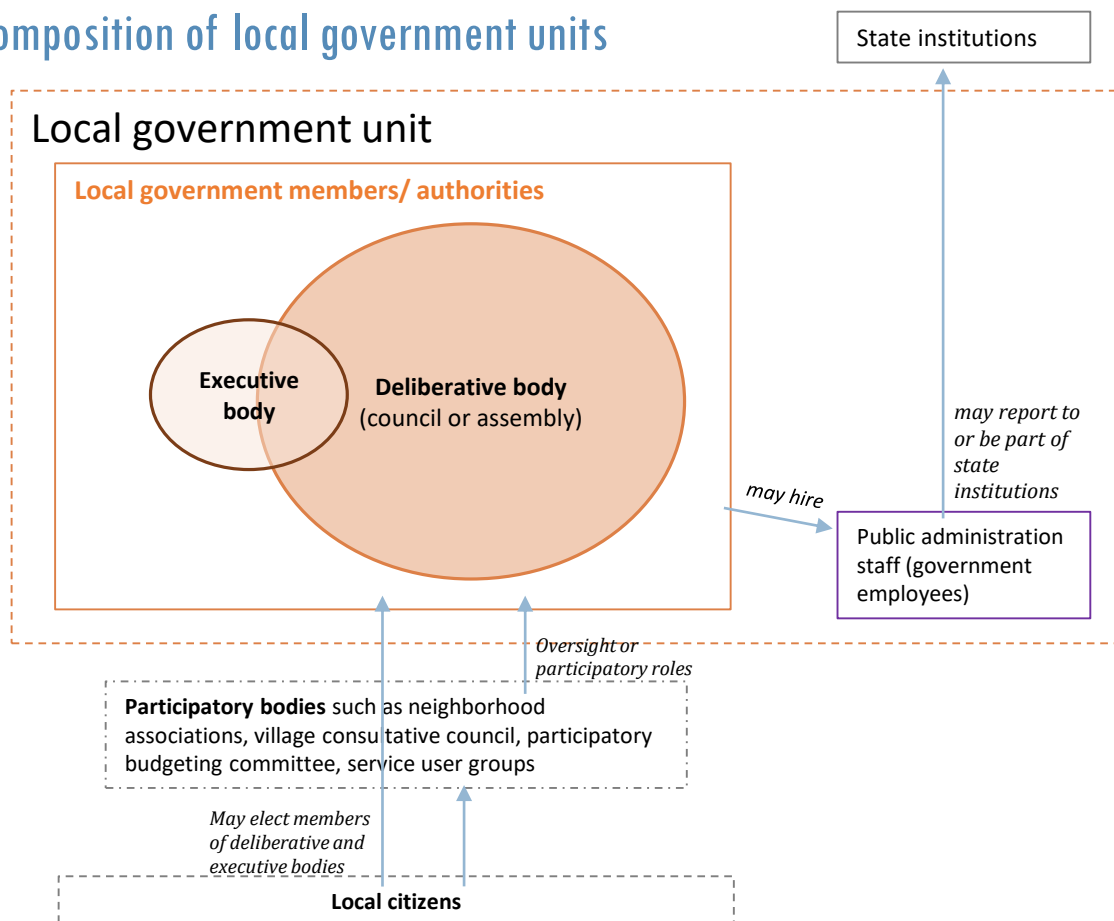
State structure: *Unitary*



Source: UN Women Review of Local Government Organization.

# Deliberative and executive bodies

## The composition of local government units



Source: Adapted from concepts discussed at the Technical Meeting on Women's Political Participation at the Local Level, UN Women, New York, 24-25 November 2014.

# Elected and appointed members

- **Elected positions**

- Most common manner of selection of local government members
- Resulted from local elections
- Includes both elected persons who competed on openly contested seats and persons selected during the electoral processes on reserved seats or through a candidate quota.

- **Appointed positions**

- Nominated, typically by government officials from higher-ranking tiers of government.
- More frequent among the leadership positions, such as the heads of the executive body, representatives of specific groups (e.g., disadvantaged groups, youth);
- Sometimes, temporary committees/delegations/caretakers appointed by government officials when a council has been dissolved.

# The methodology of the indicator

## 2. What does the indicator measure?

# The scope of indicator

- **All tiers of local government** as specified by national legal frameworks (Constitutions + Local Government Acts or equivalent)
- Positions in **deliberative bodies**
  - Mirrors existing separate indicators at national level (women in parliament vs. women in ministerial positions) -> increased comparability across countries
  - The great majority of local government members, making visible millions of women and men with decision-making power at local level
- **Elected** positions only
  - Most positions in local government
  - Captures political participation and accountability to citizens
  - Increases comparability across countries on political participation dimension
  - Low cost data sources (election results data supplied by Electoral Management Bodies)

# Calculation of the indicator

- The indicator:

$$= \frac{\textit{Number of positions held by women}}{\textit{Total number of positions held by women and men}} \times 100$$

- Calculated as:

$$= \frac{\textit{Sum of elected positions held by women in deliberative bodies of local government}}{\textit{Sum of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government}} \times 100$$

An example of a country with two tiers:

- Upper tier: 10 women in elected positions out of 100 total women and men in elected positions
- Lower tier: 500 women in elected positions out 2000 total women and men in elected positions

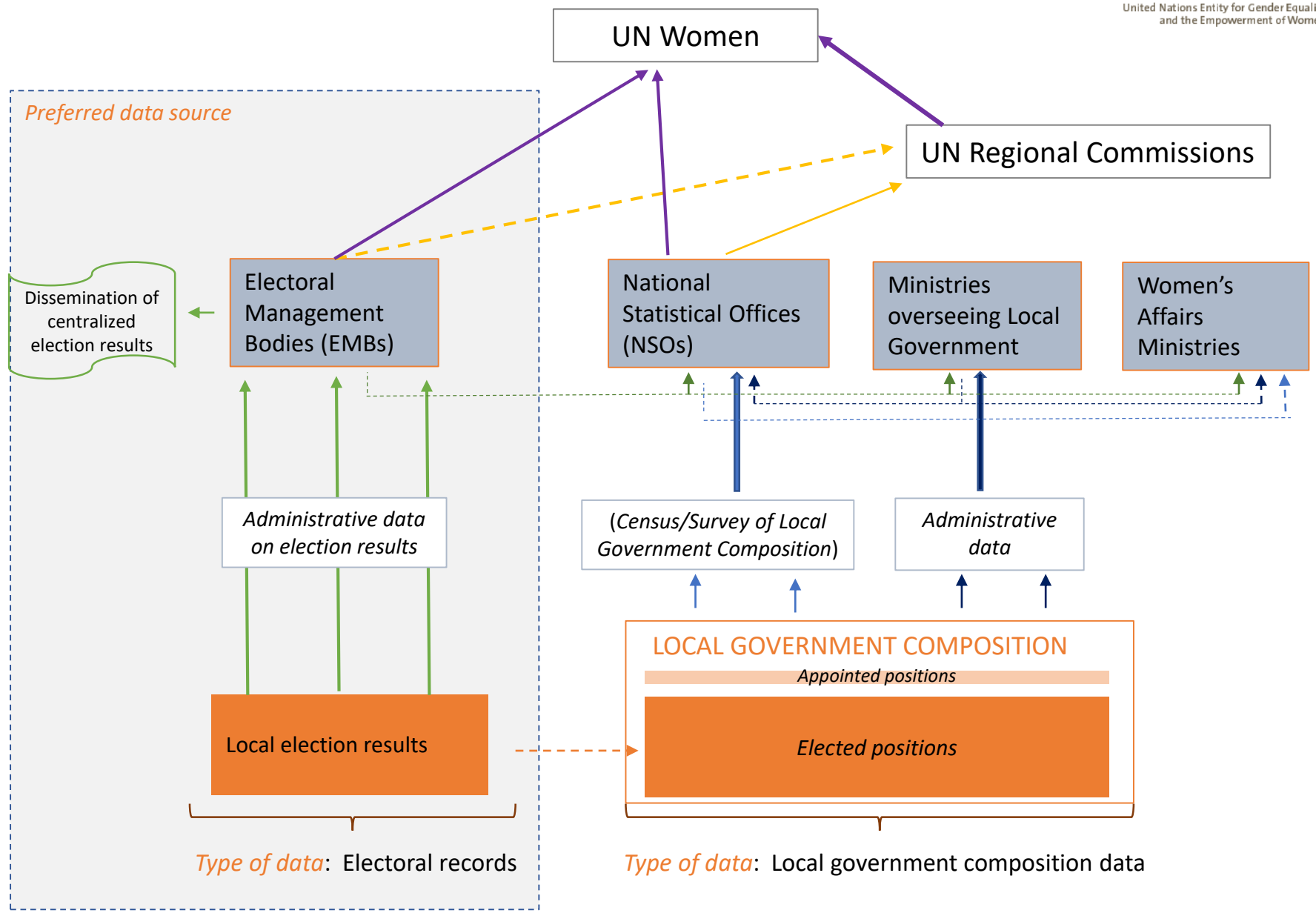
Indicator calculated as:

$$= \frac{10 + 500}{100 + 2000} \times 100 = 24\%$$

# The methodology of the indicator

## 3. Data sources

# Sources and flow of data for SDG indicator 5.5.1b



Type of data: Electoral records

Type of data: Local government composition data



# EMBs as recommended data source

- Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) as preferred data source
  - EMBs are part of the National Statistical Systems
  - Low-cost existing data: collection and dissemination of electoral information are essential tasks for EMBs
- Well-placed to ensure the integration of variable “sex” in the information collected on women’s political participation, including on:
  - Voter registration
  - Voter turnout
  - Candidacies in local elections
  - Seats won

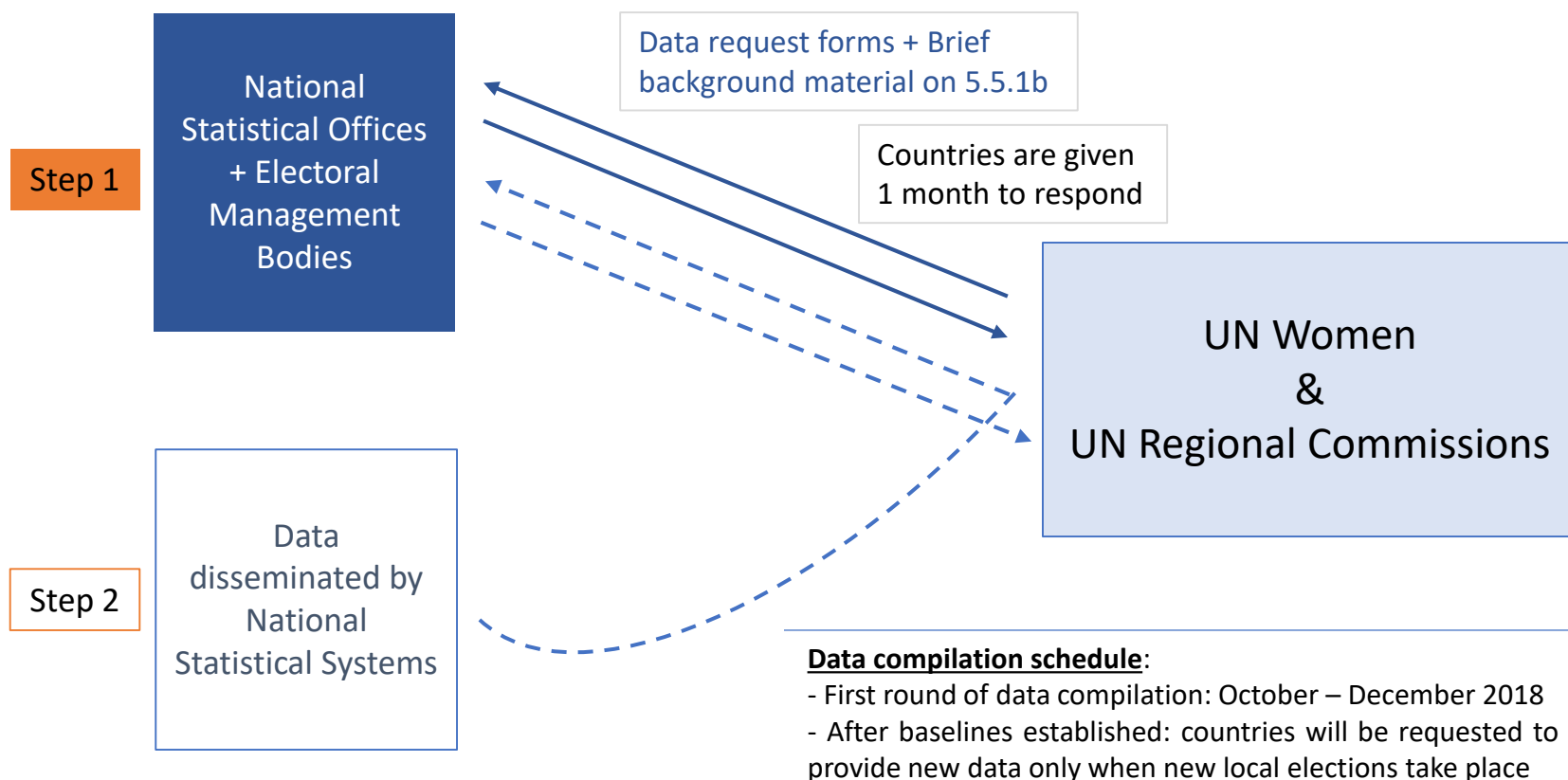
- **Challenges :**
  - Collection of data disaggregated by sex and/or dissemination not yet institutionalized in all countries.
  - Centralization of data difficult in some countries (federal systems in particular).
  - Information is not stored and/or transmitted electronically.
  - Need to improve technical capacity to produce and disseminate simple statistical summaries on women and men voters, candidates and winners of elections
  - Data produced by EMBs may not be integrated by NSOs with other statistics

# Other sources of data

- Only when sex-disaggregated data on election results not available, two other data sources to be considered:
  - **Public administration data** available to line ministries overseeing local government
    - Additional processing of information may be necessary (information on women and men in elected positions mixed with information on appointments or public administration employees)
    - Elected positions may not be covered in the records maintained (if administrative records restricted to paid positions)
  - **Surveys or censuses using local government units as units of observation**
    - May be undertaken by National Statistical Offices and/or line ministries
    - Three types: (a) local government censuses or surveys; (b) establishment surveys; and (c) municipality surveys.
    - Would need to distinguish between elected positions of local government vs. appointed positions vs. public administration employees.
- Other data such as those provided by the Associations of local government are not considered official statistics and should not be used for the global reporting on SDG indicator 5.5.1b.

# Global data compilation on 5.5.1b

# Data reporting mechanism for SDG indicator 5.5.1b



# National focal points for data reporting

- UN Women and UN Regional Commissions are reaching out to National Statistical Offices (NSOs).
- The NSOs:
  - Are coordinators of official statistical activities and often the SDG focal points for data reporting;
  - Play a key role in ensuring data quality and data integration
- However, the EMBs are the primary producers of data.
  - If data needed for SDG indicator 5.5.1b, based on electoral results data provided by EMBs already integrated in NSO's statistical activities, the NSOs are reporting back data
  - If these data are not integrated, NSOs should request EMBs to provide the data or designate the EMBs as focal points for data reporting for 5.5.1b.

# Data request forms

- Two types of data request forms:
  - Customized data request forms for 120 countries for which UN Women developed local government profiles
  - Generic data request forms for remaining countries

## Customized data request form

- Introductory section: what the form is about, who should complete it
- Contact info for person completing the form
- A description of local government organization in that country, to be validated
- Data table on number of women and men in elected positions in deliberative bodies of local government disaggregated by tier

## Generic data request form

- Introductory section: what the form is about, who should complete it
- Contact info for person completing the form
- Data table on number of women and men in elected positions in deliberative bodies of local government disaggregated by tier

# Example of a country with identified local government profile

## Morocco

State structure: *Unitary*

Central government

### Local government tiers

Regions

Prefectures (predominantly urban areas)

Provinces (predominantly rural areas)

Communes

### National legal framework reviewed

- Morocco's Constitution of 1962 with Amendments through 2011;
- Dahir n° 1-15-83 du 7 juillet 2015 portant promulgation de la Loi Organique n°111-14 relative aux régions;
- Dahir n° 1-15-84 du 7 juillet 2015 portant promulgation de la LO n°112-14 relative aux préfectures et provinces;
- Dahir n° 1-15-85 du 7 juillet 2015 portant promulgation de la LO n°113-14 relative aux communes;
- Dahir n° 1-11-173 du 21 Novembre 2011 Loi portant promulgation de la Loi Organique n° 59-11 relative à l'élection des membres des conseils des collectivités territoriales;
- Dahir n° 1-15-90 du 16 juillet 2015 portant promulgation de la Loi Organique n° 34-15 modifiant et complétant Loi Organique n° 59-11 relative à l'élection des membres des conseils des collectivités territoriales;
- Décret n°2.15.10 du 20 Février 2015, fixant le nombre des Régions, leurs noms, leurs Chefs-lieux et les Préfectures et Provinces les composant, publié au Bulletin Officiel n° 6340 du 05 Mars 2015.

### Local government members

Local government is organized at the level of regions, prefectures and provinces, and communes. The deliberative bodies of local government are the regional councils, prefecture councils, province councils and the commune councils. Members of regional and commune councils are directly elected by citizens. Members of prefecture and province councils are elected by an electoral college of commune councilors.

# Data table in the customized data request form

## 1. Number of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government, by tier/type of local government, at the time of most recent local elections: Morocco

Deliberative bodies of local government	<i>Number of elected positions</i>	<i>Source of data</i> a. Election results from Electoral Management Bodies b. Public administration data from line ministries c. Surveys/censuses of local government units ( <i>please indicate exact name</i> )	<i>Reference date</i> (month/year)	<i>Scheduled date for next elections</i> (month/year)
<b>a. Regional councils</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>b. Prefecture councils</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>c. Province councils</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>d. Commune councils</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>ef. Total positions (=a+b+c+d)</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				



# Data table in a generic data request form

## 1. Number of elected positions held by women and men in deliberative bodies of local government, by tier/type of local government, at the time of most recent local elections

Deliberative bodies of local government	<i>Number of elected positions</i>	<i>Source of data</i> a. Election results from Electoral Management Bodies b. Public administration data from line ministries c. Surveys/censuses of local government units ( <i>please indicate exact name</i> )	<i>Reference date (month/year)</i>	<i>Scheduled date for next elections (month/year)</i>
<b>Tier (level) of local government (please specify):</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>Tier (level) of local government (please specify):</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>Tier (level) of local government (please specify):</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>Tier (level) of local government (please specify):</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				
<b>Total (all tiers added)</b>				
Women				
Men				
Total				

**Thank you**